

Welcome and Call to Worship

Christmas Day was just a few hours ago and the New Year is less than a week away.
So may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Opening Prayer

Everlasting God of Glory we give you thanks because in Christ the light that shines for all has come into the world, and has become one with us that we may become one with you.

We give you thanks because in coming to dwell among us the radiance of your glory has brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light.

For the Lord our God Almighty reigns

Let us rejoice and give God the Glory Amen

Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD.^[a]

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights above.

² Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the skies.

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for at his command they were created,
⁶ and he established them for ever and ever—
he issued a decree that will never pass away.

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

⁸ lightning and hail, snow and clouds,
stormy winds that do his bidding,

⁹ you mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰ wild animals and all cattle,
small creatures and flying birds,

¹¹ kings of the earth and all nations,
you princes and all rulers on earth,

¹² young men and women,
old men and children.

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his splendour is above the earth and the heavens.

¹⁴ And he has raised up for his people a horn,^[b]
the praise of all his faithful servants,
of Israel, the people close to his heart.

Praise the LORD.

Joy to the world,

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature
sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and
grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayers

Creator of light you are ever present among us
shining brightly, open our hearts that we may
know your presence.

Forgive us we pray for all our sins.

May we, through our faithful discipleship, shine
your light onto others reflecting your loving care
for the world.

Ever-loving God, we celebrate the arrival of
Jesus Christ among us. The baby laid in a
manger bed, the child who was found in the
temple engaging with the teachers and the adult
who taught, healed, shared, blessed and spread
the knowledge of Your love wherever His
footsteps led him in life and through death to
resurrection.

In this season of goodwill, let us pray for the
world.

We pray for peace for the world and its people.

For those caught up in war or threat of war,
for those whose mind is in turmoil,
for those who are in physical distress.

For all yearning for peace and the stability it
brings.

We pray through Jesus Christ, the Light of the
World for those who feel the effects of the world
wide pandemic.

For those, ill, isolated and lonely, for those
suffering the pain of bereavement, for those for
whom you seem far away.

For all people yearning to appreciate your
presence and the new life which springs from
that knowledge.

Lord hear our prayers using us as your hands and
feet and presence in the world today.

We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord the light
of the World, Amen.

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.

Refrain:

Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o,
Id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth;
when he came down to earth,
ox and ass beside him
from the cold would hide him.

Refrain

God's bright star, o'er his head,
Wise Men three to him led;
kneel they low by his bed,
lay their gifts before him,
praise him and adore him.

Refrain

On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.

Refrain

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth,
As it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive them that trespass against
us.

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
Forever and ever.

Amen.

Reading

Luke 2 verses 41 to 52: The Boy Jesus at the Temple

Having read these verses spend a few moments in personal prayer opening your hearts to the
words.

Reflection

Christmas day was only yesterday and for many it was the pinnacle of weeks of preparation. Every detail carefully considered. What type of tree, what colour decorations, who to visit and when, what to serve for dinner Turkey, Beef or Goose may be a Vegan option, kids presents, parents presents, friends presents. All the logistical requirements of a perfect Christmas day have been completed and for the large proportion of the country there was just a sideways glance at Jesus. Maybe in the school nativity or the carol service, because they are nice traditions and on the Christmas to do list. Sadly for many people in the modern commercialised corporate Christmas with all the planning, tinsel and over played 70s pop songs Jesus ends up lost as was the case in today's scripture. For many the most fantastic event in the history of mankind goes almost unnoticed.

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

Jesus, our God and Saviour, chose to humble himself as a mere infant on this earth. To walk as we walk, to feel as we feel, to suffer as we suffer.

The fact that the creator of all we survey walked on earth as one of us should be the celebration, not the "three bird roast" or "the oh so special chocolate pudding".

If we look at today's scripture we can see similarities, for Mary and Joseph the preparations for the Passover pilgrimage would have been just as hectic and just as fraught with the logistics of getting everyone to and from Jerusalem and just like so many people today with all the planning and with all the preparation the one thing that was over looked was Jesus.

Jesus was not a helpless child however he was still young. Today he would still be in school, but then he would have been considered a lot closer to being an adult even so I am sure like any parents Mary and Joseph would have been worried. Maybe they were initially irritated, and then worried then as the time progressed more and more frantic. They looked for Jesus and eventually they found him.

Mary and Joseph thought that Jesus was lost but he wasn't he was where he was meant to be he was in his father's house. Jesus was not only maturing physically he was maturing mentally and spiritually he was spending time with his heavenly father, he was spending time in the word, he was growing, he was already starting to ask questions and challenge the status quo.

Today Jesus is not lost; he is and always will be exactly where he should be. It is not Jesus that needs to be found, it is not Jesus that needs to change direction.

It is us and the world around us that needs to be found, we are the ones that need to change direction.

How can we as individuals make a difference against the never ending tide of secular commercialism that is submerging Christmas?

Jesus came in to the world to be a light to the world, today we are the carriers of that light it is up to each one of us to shine that light in the darkness and to make a difference.

This Christmas time Jesus is not lost, he is there in every kind word, every good deed, every helping hand and every gesture of good will.

So as we move forward in to 2022 let's make sure we are in the right place, that we shine the guiding light of Jesus. **Make this the year we help someone who is lost find their way to Jesus.**

Hark! The Herald Angels

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

[Refrain]

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of
Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

[Refrain]

Grace Prayer

Wherever we are, we can share the
Grace together.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the love of God and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with us all, now and evermore.

Amen

Poem : The Day after Christmas

By A Janeen Quillman

'Twas the day after Christmas and all through the house
The kids were all stirring both Mom and her spouse.
All the stockings were down and the chimney was bare.
It looked like a party had taken place there.
The tots were busy playing with toys on their beds
While visions of bills danced in Mom's and Dad's heads.
The children were happy as they thought there had been
A red-suited elf that brought presents to them.
They heard he was jolly and with toys in his sleigh,
He came down their chimney before Christmas day.
It's sad that these little ones had never been told
The truth about Christmas, God's gift long ago.
That God sent a Saviour to all men on earth
And this was the day we celebrate His birth,
That they could have Jesus in their hearts every day,
His love to be with them as they sleep and play.
But this day after Christmas as in years before
God's love, like a gift, lay unwrapped on the floor.
Among all the trappings of a long Christmas bash
Covered with wrappings it was thrown in the trash.
And there God was hoping to see each little face
Filled with the wonder of Jesus' saving grace.
But God is long suffering and willing to wait
Another whole year or as long as it takes
For the truth about Christmas to come shining through,
His gift of a Saviour for me and for you.

Just a thought: Corrie Ten Boom

"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that
God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave
His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in
Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have
everlasting life."

Sending and Closing Prayer

May the Christ who by his birth gathered us all into
divine fellowship, fill you with the sweetness of peace
and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father,
Son, and Holy Spirit, remain with you always.
Amen.

Go forth in peace and joy!